

Press release
For immediate disclosure

NOVEMBER 19, 2021 – JANUARY 2, 2022
Arsenal Contemporary Art Montreal welcomes
THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL ART BIENNIAL (BIAN – 2021)



Soul Shift, Justine Emard, 2018

Montreal, November 2, 2021 – The **5th International Digital Art Biennial (BIAN)**, organized by **ELEKTRA**, returns this fall to **Arsenal Contemporary Art Montreal**. The BIAN, a major exhibition dedicated to contemporary digital art presented since 2012, will be held from **November 19, 2021, to January 2, 2022**.

METAMORPHOSIS

Tickets on sale now: <https://www.arsenalcontemporary.com>

After a cycle around the theme ***AUTOMATA: Art Made by Machines for Machines***, the theme of this 5th edition will be **METAMORPHOSIS** - a topical subject that echoes the pandemic situation and the changes it brings to our lifestyles.

Curated by South Korean **DooEun Choi**, the exhibition is inspired by the Book of Transformations (Yi Jing) with **East Asia** - China, South Korea, Japan - as the guest region, BIAN will bring together 17 works, some of them **North American and Canadian premieres**, by 15 local and international artists and collectives.

This edition was to take place in 2020. Three days before the opening last year, as the exhibition was ready for public display, we had to announce its cancellation due to the sanitary situation.

PROGRAM

REFIK ANADOL

Refik Anadol (b. 1985, Istanbul, Turkey) is a media artist, director, and pioneer in the aesthetics of machine intelligence. Particularly his works explore the space among digital and physical entities by creating a hybrid relationship between architecture and media arts with machine intelligence.

MICHEL DE BROIN

Michel de Broin deepens his cross-disciplinary practice by developing an ever-expanding visual vocabulary. His approach to production explores the intersections between technological, biological, and physical systems. Crafting unforeseen relationships between waste, productivity, consumption and risk, de Broin challenges the use-value and conventional associations of familiar objects and symbols: he infuses them new meaning and develops new contexts.

CADIE DESBIENS-DESMEULES

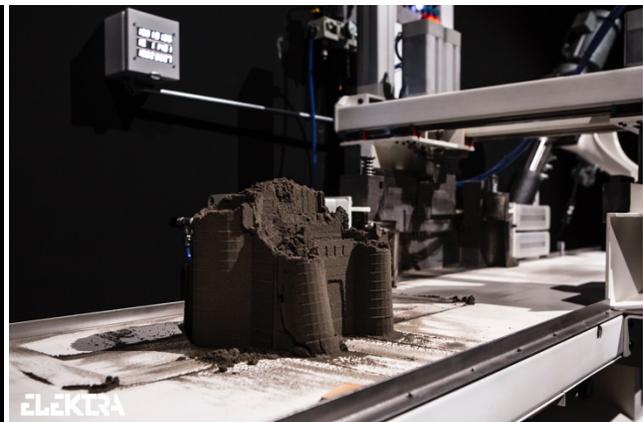
Cadie Desbiens-Desmeules is a Canadian media artist who works between generative art and live performance. Her practice can be either site-specific or installation-based, covering multiple surfaces or immersive environments. Drawing on her experience as a journalist, she is critical of technological trends in works of art that spark thoughts and discussions on how we interact with new technologies.

JUSTINE EMARD

Justine Emard (b. 1987) is a French visual artist. She lives and works in Paris. Her work explores the new relationships that are being established between our lives and technology. By combining different image medias – from photography to video and virtual reality – she situates her work at the crossroads between robotics, objects, live 3D prints, organic life and artificial intelligence.



Antibodies, Daniel Iregui, 2020



Castles Made of Sand, Michel de Broin, 2015
Photos: Christian Pomerleau - GRIDSPACE

EXONEMO

The Japanese artist unit "exonemo" (by SEMBO Kensuke and AKAIWA Yae) was formed in 1996 on the Internet. Their experimental projects are typically humorous and innovative explorations of the paradoxes of digital and analog computer networked and actual environments in our lives.

DANIEL IREGUI

Daniel Iregui is a Montreal-based New Media artist who creates interactive sculptures, immersive spaces, and architectural interventions using technology as both a tool and aesthetic.

RYOICHI KUROKAWA

Japanese artist Ryoichi Kurokawa (b. 1978 in Osaka, Japan - lives and works in Berlin) is a true poet of the transformative cinema, lyrically transfiguring the analogue representations of perceived nature into digital streams of vertiginous imagery and emotion. Inspired by the latest discoveries in the field of astrophysics, unfold, the immersive installation of Japanese artist Ryoichi Kurokawa, seeks to translate into sounds, images and vibrations, the phenomena surrounding the formation and evolution of stars.

HERMAN KOLGEN

An acclaimed multidisciplinary artist with more than three decades of experience in media arts, Herman Kolgen lives and works in Montreal. An audio-kinetic sculptor, he draws his raw material from the intimate relationship between sound and image. Kolgen creates pieces that take on the form of installations, video and film works, performances and sound sculptures.



LifeFORM, Herman Kolgen, 2020

AHREUM LEE

Ahreum Lee is an interdisciplinary musician and multimedia artist from Seoul, South Korea, currently based in Montreal. Through numerous forms of media, she is interested in examining the feedback loop between the individual and society, as manifested through the power dynamics embedded in technology.

LU YANG

Born in 1984 in Shanghai where he is currently based, Lu Yang is a 2019 winner of the BMW Art Journey award. He has shown internationally including the M Woods Museum in Beijing, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in Melbourne, and many other venues.

LOUIS-PHILIPPE RONDEAU

Louis-Philippe Rondeau's research is focused on exploring the outskirts of photographic portraiture, calling into question certain empirical conventions of the photographic image such as immediacy, vantage point and planarity. His interactive installations offer a different take on portraiture. Mainly revolved around the mirror's *modus operandi*, they provide a distorted record of the interactors' appearance via marginal representation apparatuses that seek to question the relationship between viewer and artwork. They compel us to reconsider the conventions employed in the mediation of images, specifically those regarding the representation of space and time.

OLI SORENSON

Oli Sorenson's remix art was first recognised in London, after taking part in numerous media art events at the Institute of Contemporary Art (2003-06), Tate Britain (2006), and the British Film Institute (2008-10). He gradually established an international profile when performing at ZKM (Karlsruhe, 2002), ISEA (Helsinki, 2004), Mapping (Geneva, 2009) and Sonica Festivals (Ljubljana, 2012). After moving to Montreal in 2010, Sorenson redirected his work towards gallery-based projects, and has since exhibited at The Power Plant (Toronto, 2014), FILE (Sao Paulo, 2015), Monitoring (Kassel, 2017) and Art Mûr (Berlin, 2018).

DAVID SPRIGGS

The artwork of David Spriggs lies in a space between the 2nd and 3rd dimensions. In his work he explores phenomena, space-time and movement, colour, visual systems and surveillance, the strategies and symbols of power, and the thresholds of form and perception. Spriggs is known internationally for his unique large-scale 3D ephemeral-like installations that use a technique he pioneered in 1999 layering transparent images.

SAMUEL ST-AUBIN

Samuel St-Aubin has been part of the electronic arts world since 2002. He has helped produce the work of several Quebec artists and collectives. For the past few years, he has been focusing on his own creative efforts. The electronics technician reinvents everyday objects. He injects another dimension into his creations that goes beyond the utilitarian reality of the object, by diverting them from their primary purpose, radically disrupting our relationship with the object.

BILL VORN

Based in Montreal, Bill Vorn is active in the field of Robotic Art since 1992. His installation and performance projects involve robotics and motion control, sound, lighting, video and cybernetic processes. He pursues research and creation on Artificial Life and Agent Technologies through artistic work based on the Aesthetics of Artificial Behaviors.

5th International Digital Art Biennial (BIAN)

November 19, 2021 to January 2, 2022

Monday Closed

Tuesday 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Founded in 1999, **ELEKTRA presents and promotes works created at the intersections of contemporary art and new technologies**, inscribed in the latest aesthetic currents of research and experimentation. Its main activities are: the **ELEKTRA International Digital Art Festival** which showcases audiovisual, immersive, participatory and robotic artistic performances since 1999. The **International Digital Art Biennial (BIAN)**, created in 2012, is a large exhibition featuring unique and innovative works at the intersections of new technologies and contemporary artistic creation. The **International Marketplace For Digital Art (MIAN)** is its annual professional gathering (also open to the public). Since 2007, the MIAN invites to Montreal major actors of contemporary art and digital culture's international ecosystem.

Arsenal Contemporary Art is a private contemporary art and cultural initiative founded by patrons Pierre and Anne-Marie Trahan. It is devoted to the support, promotion and development of Canadian contemporary art through diverse endeavors, including the showcase of Canadian contemporary artists, alongside international artists, in exhibitions that are curated in-house and by invited international curators. Opened in 2011 in Montreal, Arsenal Contemporary Art has since expanded to include locations in Toronto (2013) and New York (2017). Although some exhibitions travel from one location to another, the programming of each location is tailored to its respective community, space and audience.

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ELEKTRA would like to thank its partners, whose contributions are essential to our activities:

